

Minutes

Board meeting		Public session	
Date		30 June 2026	
Venue		Watercare House, Level 4 Boardroom, 73 Remuera Rd, Remuera and via Microsoft Teams	
Time		10:06am to 11:10am	
Attendance			
Board of Directors		Watercare staff	Guests
Geoff Hunt (Chair) Andrew Clark Karen Sherry Julian Smith Graham Darlow		Jamie Sinclair – Chief Executive Mark Bourne – Chief Operations Officer Tuan Hawke – Head of Operations Performance (for item 9) Andrew Mercer – Head of Health, Safety and Wellbeing (from start until end of item 6) Elizabeth Stewart – Stakeholder Engagement Specialist (from start to item 6) Shane Sullivan – Water Resources Manager (for item 9) Tere Ryan – Security Specialist Matthew Hill – Senior Legal Counsel Izzy Mohammed – Legal and Governance Advisor On Microsoft Teams Joanna Tao – Elected Member Relationship Advisor	Members from Auckland Council Councillor Ken Turner, Watercare Lead Councillor Rebecca Purvis, Acting Principal Advisor CCO Governance and External Partnerships (via Microsoft Teams) Members from the public Neil Dingle and Megan Fitter, Waima to Laingholm Pest Free Incorporated
1.	Opening karakia The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia.		
2.	Apologies Rukumoana Schaafhausen and John Crawford sent their apologies. John Crawford was in attendance via Microsoft teams for the Board only and Board/CE sessions that occurred prior to the meeting.		
3.	Quorum A quorum was established.		
4.	Declaration of any conflicts of interest Andrew Clark noted his usual conflict of interest when it comes to tax issues, as he is the CFO of Ports of Auckland Limited.		

	No other conflicts of interest were noted.
5.	Minutes of the previous meeting of 27 May 2026 board meeting <i>The Board resolved that the minutes of the public session of the board meeting held on 27 May 2026 be confirmed as true and correct, subject to the correction of a minor typographical error in section 7 of the minutes.</i>
6.	Public deputations Megan Fitter (Secretary) and Neil Dingle (Chairperson) of the Waima to Laingholm Pest Free Incorporated provided a presentation to the Board (Attachment 1). They outlined the work of the incorporated not-for-profit community organisation, which operates across Waima, Woodlands Park and Laingholm, covering approximately 1,190 hectares. Key points from the presentation included: • Waima to Laingholm Pest Free Incorporated is a grassroots initiative run by residents, with strong links to schools, sports clubs and other community groups. The area encompasses approximately 2,300 households and 5,500 residents. While volunteer recruitment has been successful, coordinating volunteers remains the Group's greatest challenge. • Approximately 47% of the 1,190-hectare area is classified as critical ecosystem. The Group aims to support smaller restoration groups by openly sharing resources, knowledge and expertise. • Strategic priorities include promoting pest control in priority areas, strengthening communication channels and pursuing funding opportunities. • Over the past three years, the Group has partnered with Green Bay High School through the Gateway Programme, providing students with practical field experience. • The Group requested support from Watercare towards the cost of a part-time coordinator role for five years, together with one-off establishment costs in the first year, or the provision of equivalent resources in kind. • They noted additional benefits of partnering with Watercare, including supporting the objectives of the Local Area Plan, enhancing corporate goodwill and creating local employment opportunities. The Chair acknowledged and thanked Waima to Laingholm Pest Free Incorporated for its contribution to environmental restoration and pest management in the area and advised that a response to their public deputation would be provided within seven days. <i>The Board noted the presentation.</i>
7.	Health, safety, and wellness update The CE introduced the report, and Andrew Mercer spoke to the health, safety and wellness update. The following key points were made: • A significant motor vehicle collision occurred in May involving a Watercare utility vehicle and another utility vehicle. The Watercare driver had observed the oncoming vehicle and taken evasive action, steering away from a direct head-on impact. As a result, the collision occurred on the front quarter of the

	vehicle rather than head-on. Both vehicles were written off. The safety features of the vehicles played a significant role in preventing serious injury, with both drivers sustaining only minor injuries. • Driving remains a critical risk for the organisation and maintaining effective controls and safety interventions to manage this risk is very important. • In response to questions, Andrew Mercer explained that some Watercare drivers undertake defensive driving training, while specialist driver training is provided for employees undertaking specialist driving activities (such as off-road work). There is currently no organisation-wide defensive driving programme in place. • The Board noted the incident provided a positive example of the effectiveness of existing driving controls and vehicle safety features. • The Board also noted the concrete saw kickback incident as a positive example of safety controls working effectively, with the use of the required face shield preventing what could have been a more serious injury. <i>The Board noted the report.</i>
8.	Chief Executive's report The CE introduced the report, which was taken as read. The following key points were made. • Water supply and storage levels remain high, with dam storage increasing by approximately 4% following rainfall received during the previous week. Forecasts indicate potential El Niño conditions. • Full year capex forecast has increased and is approximately \$100m behind target. • The trust score is derived from customer survey responses, with ratings of seven or above contributing to the overall trust measure. We have a similar trust score to other utilities. Sydney Water has a notably higher trust score but makes significant investment in customer communications and advertising. • The Faults Team achieved the organisation's highest customer satisfaction score of 72% maintaining this result for two consecutive months. • The Board noted the completion of the annual employee engagement survey, which resulted in an employee engagement score of 7.8 and an employee Net Promoter Score (eNPS) of 34. • The CE advised that information relating to Watercare's growth policy, dividend policy and information disclosure requirements are being published on the organisation's website. <i>The Board noted the report.</i>
9.	Auckland Drought Management Plan The CE and Mark Bourne introduced the report, which was taken as read. The following key points were made: • The Auckland Drought Management Plan will ultimately require approval by Auckland Council, which has the authority to impose water restrictions. The purpose of the plan is to provide clear guidance for Watercare, Auckland Council and customers on their respective roles and responsibilities in responding to drought conditions. • A key objective of the plan is to reduce base water demand, with each stage of restrictions designed to achieve an approximate 5% reduction in demand.

	• Under the proposed framework, Watercare would remain lead agency through earlier stages with Auckland Emergency Management becoming the lead agency at Stage 4 restrictions (when dam storage reaches approximately 15%). It was noted that Stage 4 represents an extreme drought scenario and would require a civil defence response, including the use of emergency powers to secure additional water supplies if required. • The Board reflected on lessons learned during the 2020-2022 drought and noted that some improvements implemented in the updated Drought Management Strategy since that time were not fully reflected in the report. • The Board emphasised the value of the data and reporting available to the Board during droughts. Monitoring systems and reporting tools remain in place and that there is also internal monitoring framework with trigger levels that operate before formal drought preparedness measures are activated. • Seasonal water restrictions to manage peak demand were discussed. Auckland's relatively flat seasonal demand profile, combined with universal water metering and volumetric charging, has contributed to a long-term reduction in water use by customers. • The Board noted the plan applies across the Auckland region, including smaller communities not connected to the main metropolitan water supply, with appropriate triggers and responses reflecting local circumstances. The plan recognises that tanker water supplies may be required for some communities. <i>The Board approved the updated Drought Management Plan to go to the Auckland Council's governing body for approval via either the Emergency Committee, Planning Committee or both.</i>
10.	Review of the Asset Management Committee Terms of Reference The CE introduced the report, which was taken as read. The following key points were made. • The proposed amendments would enable the Asset Management Committee (AMC) to formally approve project funding decisions between \$50m and \$200m, with all approvals to be subsequently noted at the Board for oversight. • The Board noted that construction and project delivery costs have increased significantly in recent years, meaning that projects previously considered major investments are now more routine in scale. • As part of addressing increasing project costs, the AMC's focus includes greater scrutiny of design costs and improved cost management throughout the project lifecycle. • The Board noted that the appointment of Mark Crowle would strengthen the organisation's delivery capability and support more commercially focused approaches to design, procurement, and delivery. • The Board emphasised opportunities to reduce costs through greater standardisation of design, rather than engaging multiple consultants to develop bespoke solutions for similar projects. • The CE advised that Watercare is actively supporting work in this area and that staff are investigating opportunities associated with the development and adoption of national standards. <i>The Board accepted the AMC's recommendation and approved the revisions made to the AMC Terms of Reference.</i>
11.	Board planner <i>The Board noted the board planner.</i>

12.	Directors' appointment terms, committee memberships and meeting attendances <i>The Board noted the report.</i>
13.	Disclosure of directors' and executives' interests <i>The Board noted the report.</i>
14.	General business There was no other general business. The public session closed at 11:10am.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

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Geoff Hunt, Chair



Attachment 1

Waima to Laingholm Pest Free Incorporated

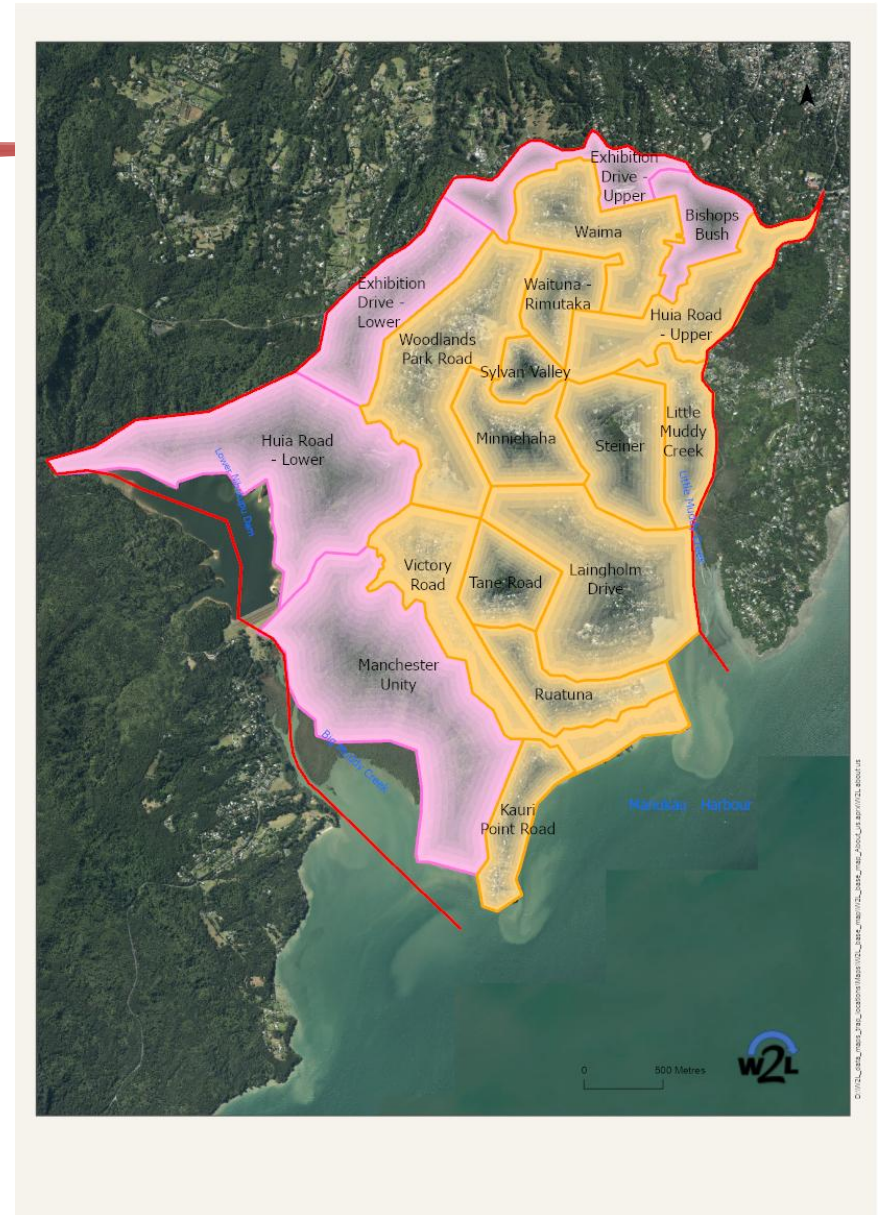
www.W2L.nz

We are a non-profit community group aimed at the eradication of introduced pests in our local area.



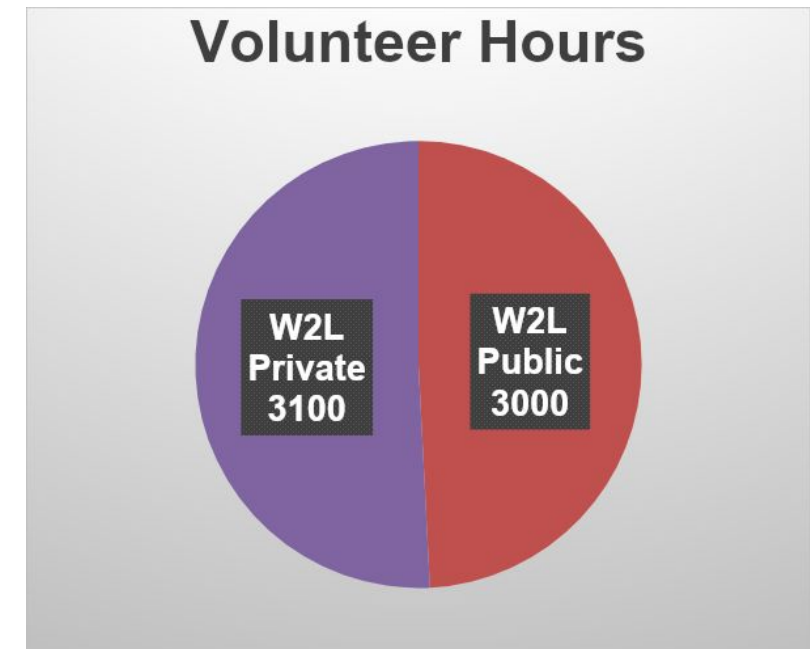
Background

- W2L is a grassroots community organisation that are passionately led by residents who volunteer their time. Their origin is in the (now disestablished) Sustainable Neighbourhood Network.
- We cover Waima, Woodlands Park and Laingholm, an area of 1190 hectares bounded by the north coast of the Manukau Harbour.
- Exhibition Drive was the very first trapline, started in 2017 with some basic Timms traps supplied by Watercare, some are still operational!



For locals by locals

- Of the 2,300 households there are approximately 5,500 people on 600 hectares. This is a tremendous resource for projects if we can coordinate well.
- The 3000 volunteer hours on public traplines is conservatively valued at \$87,000 every year.
- 47% of the area is identified as critical ecosystem.
- We have agreed resources will be made available open source to adapt in other settings, such as smaller restoration groups who need an operational framework.



Public Lines

For Waima to Laingholm infilling our 15km of operational public lines - the virtual fence - is essential for sustained success. Supporting our backyard trappers will need to be a bigger focus in the next 5 years and will enhance the Biodiversity Trust project.

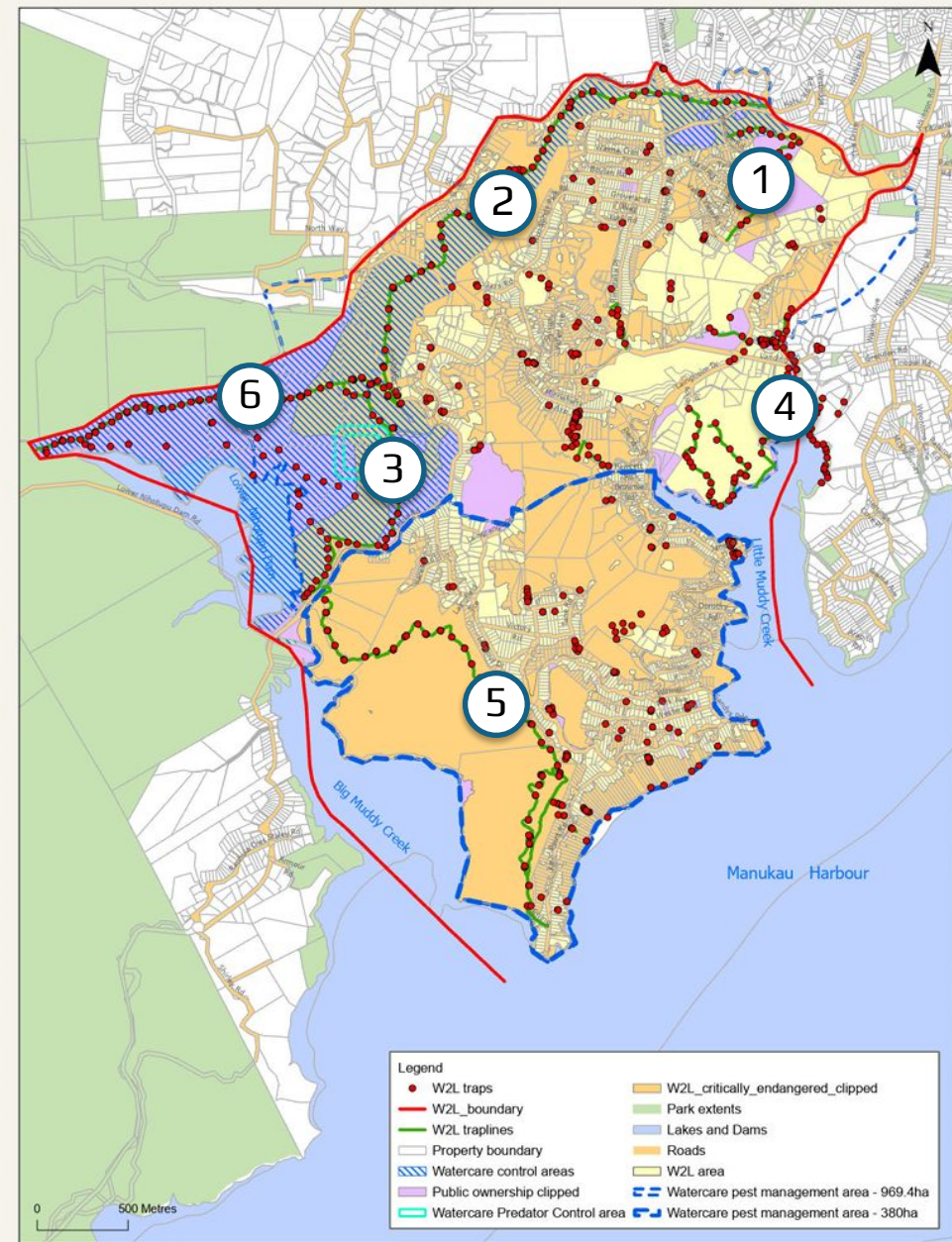
Watercare lines

1, 2, 3 & 6

284 Traps
Total

Operational Public Lines -- □

1. Bishops / Clarks Bush
2. Exhibition Drive
3. Huia Road
4. Little Muddy Creek
5. Manchester Unity Block
6. Pipeline Road



W2L Predator Free Community Group Area
Watercare proposed pest management areas

For internal use only

W2L Results



Waima to Laingholm (W2L) Pest Control Group

Total
894
Possum kills

Public Land
571
Possum kills

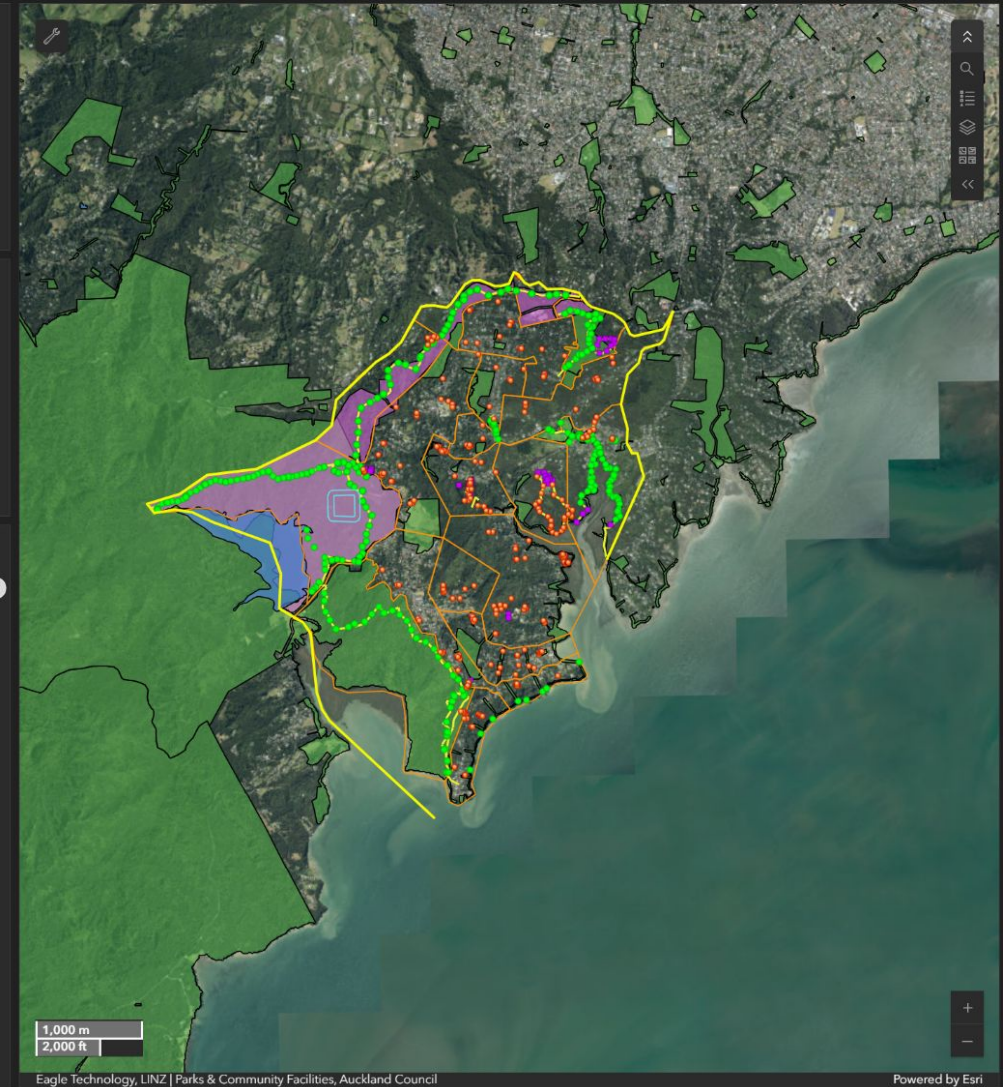
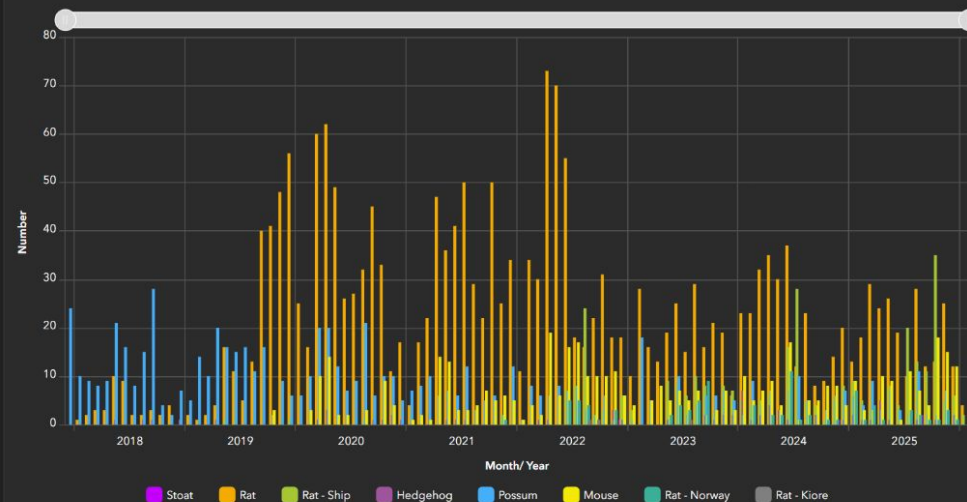
Private Land
323
Possum kills

Total
2751
Rat kills

Public Land
2253
Rat kills

Private Land
498
Rat kills

Total Pest Animal kills



Trap data sourced from W2L TrapNZ projects

Strategic Goals

Short term and underway:

- Find out who in the community is already carrying out pest control.
- Build community involvement in this project.
- Promote pest control in priority areas.
- Continue trapping - Council and Watercare.
- Develop pest management plans for smaller areas.
- Obtain permission to carry out pest control in the W2L area from landowners.
- Commence with pest control in smaller areas and local neighbourhoods.
- Set up observation methods and monitoring of native birds and other species.
- Build communication channels and relationships across the community and organisations.
- Commence funding applications for pest control and a coordinator.
- Hold community events.

Long term and working towards:

- Set up a long term timeline for this project (30 years +).
- Increase and protect existing and self-repopulated native flora and fauna.
- Expand related activities, such as stream protection, weeding and native planting.
- Preschool and primary school program development.
- Continue to maintain and encourage pet cat responsibility.
- Reintroduction of certain native species.

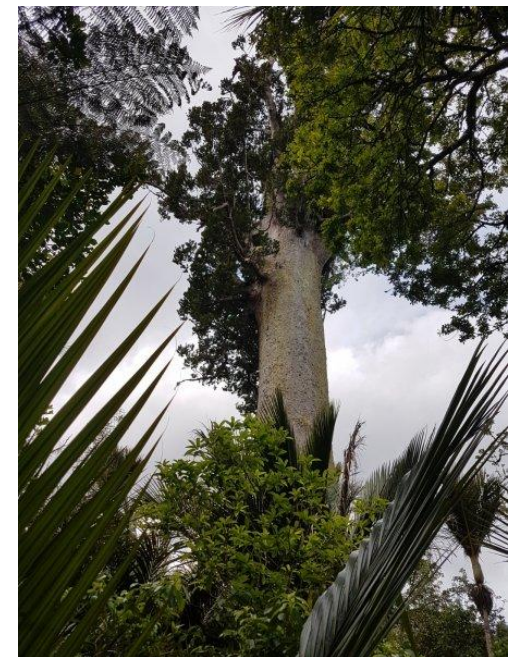


Kaitiakitanga

maintain and protect our people, environment and taonga

Clarks Kauri along with Bishops and Alleys nearby are considered the oldest remaining Kauri in the Auckland

- W2L hold a rāhui warrant with Te Kawerau ā Maki and proactively educate volunteers on phytophthora agathidicida-kauri dieback. Strict protocols are in place for all operations.
- Both Auckland Council and Watercare have also approved our protocols.
- Te Kawerau ā Maki offers our volunteers a cultural induction which is valued by not just the trappers but students and their whanau too.



Alleys kauri in Waima has a girth of 827cm

Image Credit: Ash Morton



Social Enterprise

Expanding on our Gateway success

<https://pfwra.org.nz/news-blog/green-bay-high/>

By Fiona Drummond on 31st May 2024



1. Expressions of interest for user pays trial area.
2. Develop paid work opportunities for young people to service residential traps on a user pays model.
3. Provide people with a baseline of work with development pathway career conservation opportunities.
4. With specialist assistance expand to people with disabilities and mental health challenges.

Funding Needs

W2L are seeking funding from a number of sources for the period of their 5 year plan.

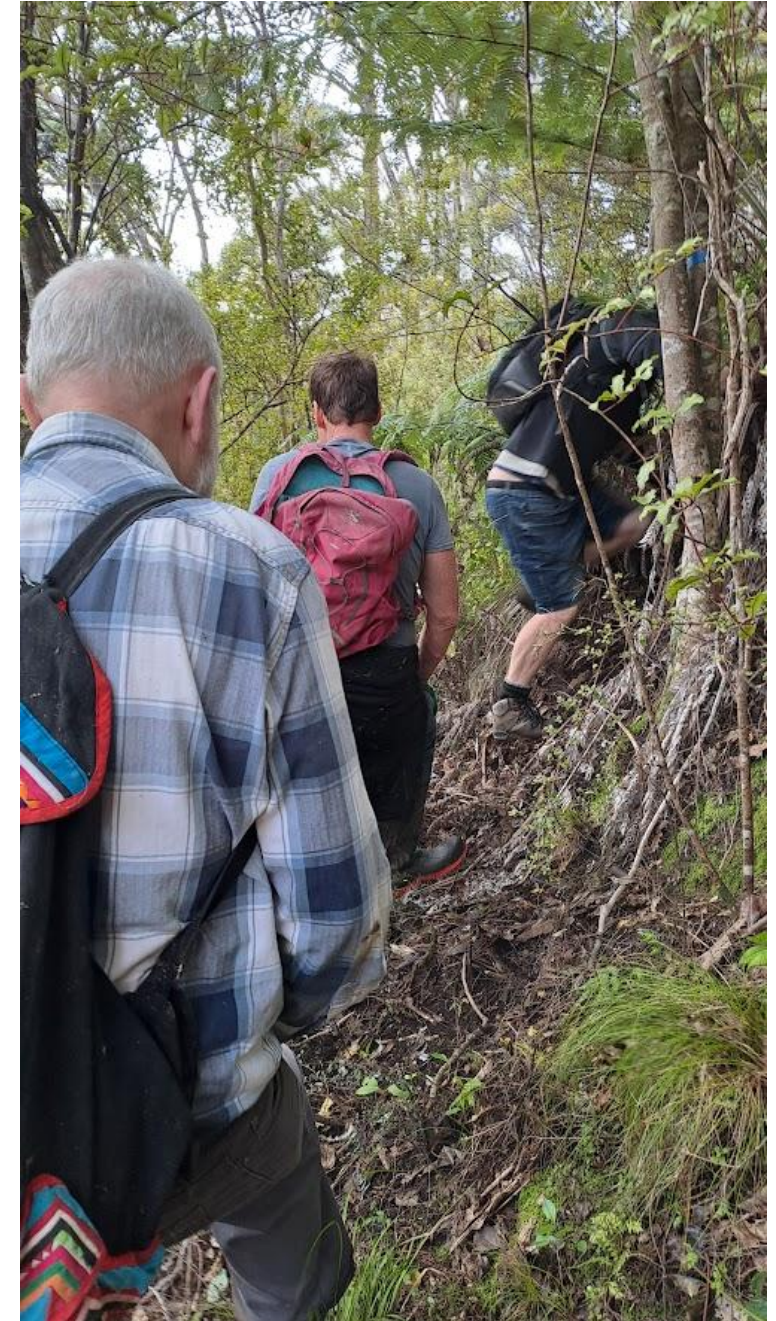
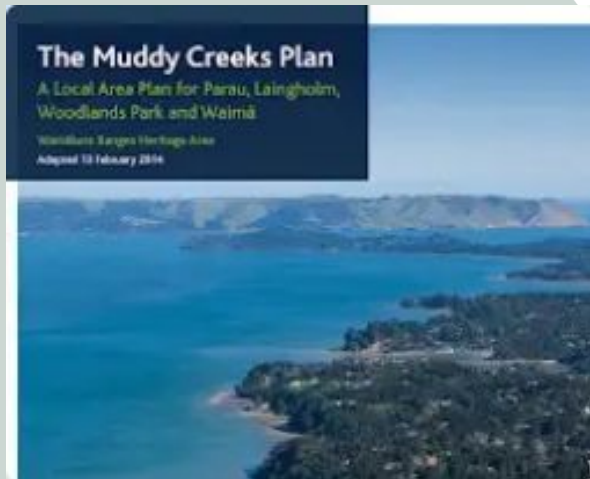
We are asking Watercare to contribute to:

- ◆ Coordinator for 20 hours per week at a cost of \$36,900 per annum for 5 years (\$184,500).
- ◆ \$3,772 one off expenses in Y1 or supply items in kind. Much of this is for renewal of existing assets.



Other Benefits

- Giving effect to the Muddy Creeks Local Area Plan which is a requirement of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008.
- Corporate goodwill within the community, and positive news to be spread further afield.
- Workforce development, local jobs for local people.



Questions?

